



Superior Court of California County of Orange

NEWS RELEASE

Media and Community Relations Office
Contact: Carole Levitzky
clevitzky@superior.co.orange.ca.us
(714) 834-7623

March 28, 2000

NORTH JUSTICE CENTER DRUG COURT GRADUATION

Fullerton, Ca - The Orange County Superior Court, North Justice Center will hold its Second Drug Court Graduation on **Thursday, March 30, 2000, from 7:00 P.M. to 8:30 P.M. in Department N13 at the North Justice Center in Fullerton** to celebrate the accomplishments of the seven men and women who have successfully completed the rigorous requirements of this non-traditional court program. Assemblyman Dick Ackerman, will be the keynote speaker at the event along with Chief Patrick McKinley from the Fullerton Police Department, and Superior Court Commissioner Erick L. Larsh will preside at the ceremony.

The Orange County Drug Court program is a collaboration of the Orange County Superior Court, the District Attorney's Office, the Public Defender's Office, the Probation Department, the Health Care Agency, the Sheriff's Department and other law enforcement agencies.

The mission of the program is to provide a non-adversarial response to select nonviolent offenders charged with felony drug possession. Through comprehensive treatment and supervision, the program seeks to enable participant addicts to become drug-free, productive members of the community. The four-phase program has intensive supervision by a drug court probation officer, individual and group counseling provided by the Health Care Agency's Division of Alcohol and Drug Abuse Services, and frequent court appearances to discuss the participant's progress. Further, participants are subject to search and seizure during the program and are frequently contacted by probation and law enforcement personnel at their homes to ensure compliance with program requirements.

The participants are required to submit to routine, frequent drug tests, attend self-help meetings (AA, NA, etc.), maintain employment and/or enroll in an educational or vocational training program. Participants are required to obtain their GED prior to drug court graduation if they do not possess a high school diploma or GED. In addition, participants with young children are required to attend special parenting and educational classes.

Drug Courts have come a long way since their inception in 1989; there are now more than 400 drug courts operating nationally. In California there are more than 80 jurisdictions operating drug courts serving a client base of more than 8,000. Drug Courts are actively involved in breaking the cycle of drug addiction and crime in our communities and successfully graduating productive citizens. Orange County operates adult drug courts in the South Justice Center (Laguna Niguel), the Central Justice Center (Santa Ana), the North Justice Center (Fullerton) and the West Justice Center (Westminster). The Court has recently started a juvenile drug court program at the Lamoreaux Justice Center.

For more information contact, Pam Brennan, Drug Court Coordinator, at (714) 441-3523.

#

Court Release #00-013